Communiqué from the Episcopal Church-United Methodist Dialogue Committee on Full Communion

The Episcopal Church-United Methodist Church Dialogue Committee on Full Communion met at the United Methodist Building in Washington, DC from May 26-28, 2015. The United Methodist Church's Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships hosted this conversation with support from the Episcopal Church's Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations. Bishop Gregory Palmer and the Right Reverend C. Franklin Brookhart co-chaired the Dialogue Committee meeting.

Following a welcome by the Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe, General Secretary of the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society (headquartered at the United Methodist Building), the Committee reviewed the work of previous dialogue conversations, which began in 2002 and resulted in an Interim Eucharistic Sharing Agreement in 2006. Over the course of three days of prayer, conversation, deliberation, fellowship, and long-term planning, the Committee adopted a Memorandum of Understanding to guide its work through December 2017. Conversations took place amidst a spirit of mutual respect, good humor, authenticity to our shared and different traditions, openness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and deepening Christian friendship.

Building on an earlier committee's affirmation that there are no church-dividing obstacles to the ratification of a full communion relationship, the Dialogue Committee received an internal document entitled *Assist Us to Proclaim the Gospel: A Proposal for Full Communion*. The Dialogue Committee committed itself to study of the existing full communion relationships enriching the life of each church, and looked in particular at a 2014 document proposing the recognition of a full communion relationship between United Methodists and the Northern and Southern provinces of the Moravian Church.

In its next meetings, the Dialogue Committee will agree to the content of resolutions to be submitted to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church and the General Conference of The United Methodist Church. The Committee will also seek to identify and encourage local expressions of existing unity in mission between Episcopalians and United Methodists—in congregations, theological education, advocacy, worship, and service. To these ends, the Committee agreed to a practice of coordinated and regular communication about its work through appropriate channels in each church, including a common social media strategy and the release of communiqués.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Mammana, Jr.
Glen Alton Messer, II

June 2, 2015, for immediate release

Roster for the Dialogue Committee on Full Communion

The Episcopal Church	The United Methodist Church
The Right Rev. C. Franklin Brookhart (co-chair); the Right Rev. David Rice; the Rev. Dr. Thomas Ferguson; the Rev. Dr. Randall Balmer; the Rev. Jordan M. Haynie Ware; the Rev. Margaret Rose (staff); Mr. Richard Mammana (staff).	Bishop Gregory Palmer (co-chair); Reverend Patricia Farris; Reverend Dr. James Howell; Reverend Dr. Pamela Lightsey; Reverend Dr. Robert J. Williams; Dr. Glen Alton Messer, II (staff).

Background resources

2014
Into All the World: Being and Becoming Apostolic Churches (A report to the Anglican Consultative Council and the World Methodist Council by the Anglican-Methodist International Commission for Unity in Mission)
http://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/102827/Into-All-The-World-AMICUM-Report-2014.pdf

2010
A Theological Foundation for Full Communion between the Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church
http://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/document/theological-foundation-full-communion-between-episcopal-church-and-united-methodist

2008
By Water and the Spirit: A United Methodist Understanding of Baptism
http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/by-water-and-the-spirit-a-united-methodist-understanding-of-baptism

2007
Make Us One with Christ: A Study Guide on Episcopal-Methodist Dialogue
http://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/document/make-us-one-christ-study-guide-episcopal-methodist-dialogue

2006
United Methodist-Episcopal Church Common Guidelines for Interim Eucharistic Sharing
http://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/document/umc-tec-common-guidelines-interim-eucharistic-sharing

2004
This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion
http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/this-holy-mystery

2003
A Covenant between the Methodist Church in Britain and the Church of England
http://anglican-methodist.org